

## House Resolution 1258

By: Representatives Purcell of the 159<sup>th</sup>, Day of the 163<sup>rd</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, Stephens of the 161<sup>st</sup>, Bryant of the 160<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the founding of Armstrong Atlantic State University  
2 and inviting President Linda M. Bleicken to be recognized by the House of Representatives;  
3 and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Armstrong Junior College was founded by Savannah's City Council on May 27,  
5 1935; and

6 WHEREAS, through the leadership of Mayor Thomas Gamble; Savannah High School  
7 English teacher, Lowry Axley; *Savannah Morning News* editor and publisher, Herschel V.  
8 Jenkins; State Senator David S. Atkinson; the Savannah City Council; and a diverse host of  
9 the citizenry of the City of Savannah, the college became an integral part of the City of  
10 Savannah; and

11 WHEREAS, through the generosity of Lucy Camp Armstrong Moltz and Lucy Armstrong  
12 Johnson, Armstrong House was acquired by the City of Savannah to house the college as a  
13 memorial to George Ferguson Armstrong; and

14 WHEREAS, Armstrong Junior College, after experiencing tremendous growth, became the  
15 state supported Armstrong State College and subsequently moved to the south side of  
16 Savannah to expand its ability to serve the region; and

17 WHEREAS, the institution gained state university status in 1996 becoming Armstrong  
18 Atlantic State University, now serving more than 7,500 students in over 100 academic  
19 programs through the College of Education, College of Health Professions, College of  
20 Liberal Arts, and College of Science and Technology; and

21 WHEREAS, for 75 years the university's students, faculty, and alumni and its academic  
22 programs, athletics, and publications have brought state-wide, regional, and national acclaim  
23 to the school, the City of Savannah, and the State of Georgia; and

24 WHEREAS, Armstrong Atlantic State University has grown from an original enrollment of  
25 175 to a student body of more than 7,500, with more than 86 percent of its students from  
26 across the State of Georgia, and has an impact upon the local economy of \$205 million per  
27 year; and

28 WHEREAS, since its inception as a city owned junior college, Armstrong Atlantic State  
29 University has been a strong partner contributing to the economic health of this state,  
30 providing a wide variety of courses and degrees, and preparing graduates to meet the  
31 ever-changing work force needs of business and industry in the State of Georgia.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
33 the members of this body honor the memory of Savannah Mayor Thomas Gamble and the  
34 citizens of Savannah and Chatham County whose leadership resulted in the establishment of  
35 Armstrong Atlantic State University.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body recognize the 75th anniversary  
37 of Armstrong Atlantic State University and extend congratulations to the individuals who  
38 have left their imprint on the community through their contributions as students, faculty,  
39 alumni, staff, administrators, or supporters.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the president of Armstrong Atlantic State University,  
41 Linda M. Bleicken, is invited to be recognized by the House of Representatives at a date and  
42 time to be specified by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
44 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the president of Armstrong  
45 Atlantic State University, Linda M. Bleicken.